

Amendment After Final
Serial No.: 09/757,255
Page 4 of 5

REMARKS

Before entry of this Amendment, claims 24-26, 28-33, 37-39, and 41-42 are pending, claims 31-33, 37, and 38, however, being withdrawn as drawn to non-elected species. The status of the application is as follows:

- Claims 24-26, 28-30, 39, and 41-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention;
- Claims 24-26, 28, 39 and 41-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rosenberg '081; and
- Claims 29-30 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

The Office action states, on page 4, that claims 29 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant hereby amends independent claims 24 and 39 to include all of the limitations of dependent claims 25 and 29, as well as to address indefiniteness issues raised in the Office action. Applicant also amends claim 30 to correct its dependency in view of the amendment to claim 24. No new matter has been added by any of these amendments.

Claims 31-33, 37, and 38 previously withdrawn from consideration are hereby cancelled without prejudice, and without any intention of abandoning the subject matter thereof. Also, in view of the above amendments to claims 24 and 39, claims 25 and 29 are now cancelled without prejudice. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue claims of the same, lesser, or greater scope than cancelled claims 25, 29, and 31-38 in the future.

Applicant's undersigned representative thanks Examiner Novosad for her courtesy in discussing briefly with him, on February 25, 2004, the proposed amendments to claims 24, 30, and 39, set forth hereinabove. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's willingness to enter the above amendments after final to place claims 24, 26, 28, 30, 39, and 41-42, as amended, in condition for allowance.

Amendment After Final
Serial No.: 09/757,255
Page 5 of 5

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that, in light of the foregoing Amendment, this application is now in condition for allowance, and request that it proceed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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